

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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P 161218Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8625
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3000

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, WA, TZ
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: STATUS OF "SWAPO ELEVEN"

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2050

1. SUMMARY: TANGOV RAISES QUESTION OF QUARANTEES OF BEHAVIOR
OF SWAPO DETAINEES AFTER THEIR RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOREIGN OFFICE NYAKYI SUMMONED US, UK,
SWEDISH, AND NORWEGIAN AMBASSADORS MAY 16 FOR DISCUSSION OF
SWAPO DETAINEES. HE BEGAN BY REITERATING TANGOV'S DECISION TO
RELEASE DETAINEES: "IF POSSIBLE WITH SWAPO'S AGREEMENT, IF NOT
AT LEAST WITH ITS UNDERSTANDING." THE TANGOV THOUGHT THE TIME
FOR RELEASE WAS NOW. HOWEVER, SWAPO DISAGREED. IT FEARED THAT,
IF RELEASED NOW, THE DETAINEES WOULD RETURN TO NAMIBIA AND
COLLABORATE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN AUTHORITIES TO THE DETRI-
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MENT OF SWAPO'S POSITION.

3. THE TANGOV, SAID NYAKYI, OBVIOUSLY COULD NOT GIVE SWAPO A
GUARANTEE THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN. HOWEVER, HE HOPED THE
POTENTIAL HOST COUNTRIES OF THE DETAINEES (US, UK, NORWAY, AND
SWEDEN) COULD. HE WANTED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT
ABOUT THE DETAINEES RETURNING TO NAMIBIA AFTER THE TRANSITION

BEGAN, BUT RATHER OF SWAPO'S OBJECTIONS TO THEIR GOING BACK NOW OR, SECONDARILY, OF THEIR ENGAGING IN ANTI-SWAPO ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COUNTRIES OF RESIDENCE.

4. EACH OF THE AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED THEIR DOUBTS THAT SUCH GUARANTEES COULD BE UNDERTAKEN. THEY POINTED OUT THAT ALL SUPPORTED SWAPO'S RIGHT TO A ROLE IN NAMIBIA AND ALL APPROVED OF THE CONTACT GROUP SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. HOWEVER, HUMANITARIAN, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND CONSULAR FACTORS PREDOMINATED IN THEIR COUNTRIES' UNDERTAKING TO RECEIVE THE SWAPO DETAINEES; THEY DID NOT SEE HOW ANY OF THE DETAINEES COULD BE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING THE COUNTRIES AFTER ARRIVAL, IF THEY SO CHOSE; NOR COULD THE NAMIBIANS BE REFUSED THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, ETC., PROVIDED TO OTHER RESIDENTS. ALL AGREED, HOWEVER TO REPORT THE MATTER AND TO GIVE SPECIFIC REPLIES TO NYAKYI'S REQUEST AFTER THEY HAD HEARD FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS.

5. NYAKYI SAID HE'D HOPED WE WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TELL HIM HE COULD TELL SWAPO IT DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD OUR PROBLEMS. HE HOPED WE UNDERSTOOD SWAPO'S LEGITIMATE CONCERNS ALSO -- ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT ALSO TALK ABOUT THE MATTER WITH THE LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. PERHAPS HE COULD HELP REASSURE SWAPO. NYAKYI ENDED BY SAYING THAT TANZANIA'S INTENTIONS TO RELEASE THE DETAINEES SOON WERE NOT CONDITIONAL ON HOST COUNTRIES' ASSURANCES AND HE THOUGHT CONFIDENTIAL

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ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT A WEEK'S TIME. HOWEVER, HE HOPED WE COULD GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO HELP REASSURE SWAPO.

6. COMMENT: NYAKYI IS A SOPHISTICATED, WELL-TRAVELLED, PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE REALLY THINKS HOST COUNTRIES COULD GIVE THE KIND OF GUARANTEES REQUESTED. HE IS PROBABLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS TO TRY TO MEET WHAT TANGOV DOES SEE AS VALID CAUSE OF CONCERN TO SWAPO SO THAT HE CAN REPORT BACK THAT TANZANIA TRIED EVERYTHING IT COULD. FURTHER DELAY IN THE RELEASES IS LIKELY TO RESULT AND IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT THE TANGOV MAY TRY TO STALL UNTIL AN ACTUAL NAMIBIA AGREEMENT IS REACHED. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT THE PROCESS WILL GRIND SLOWLY ON AS THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TWISTS AND TURNS BEFORE FINALLY SPITTING OUT THE HOOK.

7. AMBASSADORS AGREED THEY WOULD INFORM EACH OTHER WHEN THEY HEARD FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS BUT WOULD RESPOND TO TANGOV INDIVIDUALLY. WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP ANYTHING THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO PUT TOGETHER BEYOND WHAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN THIS MATTER.
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